

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 8062**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1829

**DATE PREPARED:** Jan 21, 2001

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Abandoned Infants.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Kathy Norris

**PHONE NUMBER:** 234-1360

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**      X      **GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill increases from 30 days to 45 days the maximum age of an abandoned infant that may be taken into custody without a court order. The bill provides that a parent who leaves an infant with an emergency medical services provider has the right to remain anonymous.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2001.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill would extend the period of time that a parent may abandon an infant with an emergency medical services provider. Potentially, the number of infants abandoned could increase although this result seems unlikely. The bill also specifies that a parent who leaves an infant with an emergency medical services provider has a right to remain anonymous. This provision could save the state administrative dollars by reducing the number of child abuse or neglect cases investigated and prosecuted.

The ultimate impact of the bill will be determined by the number of infants that are abandoned and the circumstances surrounding the abandonment. The Division of Family and Children estimates that it provides assistance to 60 abandoned infants each year.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The bill also specifies that a parent who leaves an infant with an emergency medical services provider has a right to remain anonymous. This provision could save the local courts administrative dollars by reducing the number of child abuse or neglect hearings.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** The Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Family and Children.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local courts with juvenile jurisdiction.

**Information Sources:**